

Intelligent Transportation Systems

TrafficWise

TrafficWise, INDOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program, focuses on addressing congestion caused by crashes, rush hour and work zones. INDOT expects TrafficWise to save motorists 10 to 25 percent in travel time, and officials hope for a similar drop in accidents.

The most significant TrafficWise deployments are the three Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) projects, which are located in Northwest Indiana, Indianapolis and the Jeffersonville/Clarksville/New Albany/Falls City area. The three major components of an ATMS are a real-time traffic and weather monitoring system, an incident response program and a traveler information system.



Traffic and Weather Monitoring

The TrafficWise system is capable of monitoring real-time traffic and weather conditions on the interstate within the ATMS deployment areas. These sensors enable INDOT personnel to identify locations where traffic is congested or an unsafe situation exists. The sensors are installed on the Borman Expressway (I-80/94) and I-65 in north-west Indiana, and are being designed for the Indianapolis area.

Closed circuit television cameras will then be utilized to collect further information that can be sent to emergency responders en route to the problem area.

Updating Traveler Information

The primary purpose of TrafficWise is to reduce traffic congestion by keeping the public informed of traffic situations that may delay their travels. In the TrafficWise system, notifying the statewide public is accomplished through the utilization of Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) Stations, alphanumeric pagers and the Internet. Motorists can use this information to make real-time decisions about their travel route.

Where available, Highway Advisory Radio can be found at 530 AM on the radio dial. TrafficWise can be accessed on the Web at <http://www.in.gov/dot/motoristinfo/trafficwise/index.html>.

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Incident Response

Hoosier Helpers are the primary INDOT incident responders in the TrafficWise system. These Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) units utilize specially identified and equipped vans to respond to disabled motorists, traffic crashes, debris in the roadway and any other problem that has the potential to reduce traffic flow as detected via the traffic and weather sensors. In 2001, Hoosier Helpers across the state responded to nearly 32,000 incidents.

INDOT, through partnerships formed with other emergency service agencies such as the Indiana State Police, is also working to increase the efficiency of response efforts. The Advanced Traffic Management System is 99 percent complete in northwest Indiana, approximately 20 percent complete in the Indianapolis area and is 100 percent complete in Clark and Floyd counties.

New in 2002

The new Indianapolis Traffic Management Center (TMC) is under construction. Construction started in April 2002 and is scheduled to be complete by December 2003. It will house both the INDOT TMC staff as well as serve as the new Indiana State Police Post #52. The INDOT TMC dispatchers and the State Police dispatchers will be working together to speed up response to incidents on the freeway system.

The new 57,000 square-foot building (pictured below) will house offices and will be the storage and service center for Hoosier Helper vehicles.

All traffic sensors and video cameras will feed back to the Indianapolis TMC via a wireless microwave communications system.



INDOT and the Illinois and Wisconsin departments of transportation work together on the Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee (GCM) Intelligent Transportation Systems Priority Corridor since it covers all three states. One major project is the development of a Web site for the GCM Corridor area.

In October 2002, the GCM team received an award from the Federal Highway Administration for having one of the best Web sites in the nation. The GCM Travel Web site, <http://www.gcmtravel.com>, is based on extensive data all three states send to a data-sharing system. With this system, users can link to information across the entire three-state priority corridor, including cameras, traffic maps and dynamic message sign messages.

Our people, Our values

Steve Wuertz *Operations Support*



Steve Wuertz, also known as the department's unofficial fact keeper and historian, has worked for INDOT for more than 16 years.

Steve currently works in the Operations Support Division as an ITS program coordinator. He holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University in Transportation and Public Utilities Management.

Steve credits his longevity in the department to his lifelong interest in highways and transportation. He would like for Hoosier residents to know that his INDOT co-workers are incredibly dedicated to improving the state and highway system to save motorists' lives, time and money.

